

# SERVE ILLINOIS



State of Illinois  
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Department of Human Services  
Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary



Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

Spring 2008

## Illinois "Dome Day" Expanded for 2008



### *AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and Learn & Serve Representatives Join Together for Service and Awareness*

"Dome Day" was held on April 9, 2008 with over 200 participants from National Service Programs across Illinois convening on the Illinois State Capitol Complex. Members and staff from all three national "streams of service," representing a continuum of service opportunities from grade-school children in Illinois' School-Based Learn and Serve programs, to retirees serving their community through Senior Corps programs such as the Retired and

Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), were in attendance. Sixteen of the Commission's 21 AmeriCorps\*State programs also participated.

The purpose of Dome Day was threefold:

- To engage state level delegates in conversation around national service and active citizenship in Illinois;
- To increase awareness among legislators and state agency officials of national service programs active throughout Illinois; *and*,
- To build support for the concept of national and community service in Illinois.

The day began with a welcome address at the Illinois State Museum auditorium. After the Opening Ceremony, National Service Members and program staff divided themselves among the Springfield, Illinois service project site at the Springfield Urban League's Headstart program and nearly 40 pre-scheduled roundtables with state officials and members of the Illinois General Assembly and staff.

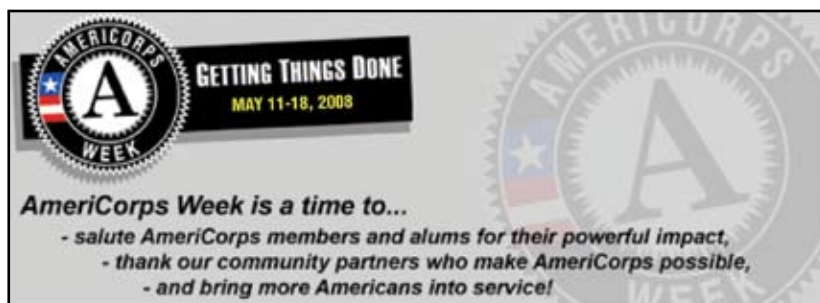
While Dome Day was not a lobbying event, legislators were asked to visit their local AmeriCorps programs and participate in upcoming National Days of Service, including those planned for National AmeriCorps Week. For a list of these Service Day activities, contact the Serve Illinois Commission at 800.592.9896 or email to [DHS.ServeIllinois@Illinois.gov](mailto:DHS.ServeIllinois@Illinois.gov).

Dome Day activities came to a close with special thanks from the day's organizers. See *LeaderCorps* article, page 4, regarding event coordination for AmeriCorps Week in Illinois

The Illinois Dome Day Steering Committee was comprised of Serve Illinois Commissioners and staff, representatives of the Illinois Corporation for National and Community Service office, Jumpstart Illinois, City Year Chicago and AmeriCorps Project YES!



*National Service Members, including Maria Estrada of McHenry County AmeriCorps, performed a variety of service projects at Springfield Urban League's Headstart facilities.*



## From the Secretary



The Illinois State Capitol complex was busier than usual on April 9, 2008, due to National Service programs' participants from throughout Illinois who convened in Springfield that day. While visiting the Capitol, National Service Members performed service projects and engaged in roundtable discussions with state legislators to discuss work being accomplished in communities and its positive affect on the lives of Illinois citizens.

What a difference it makes when we serve others! Whether by giving time and resources, or through more formal, stipended programs such as AmeriCorps, volunteering is important – it builds social capital like no other force. Please join the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Serve Illinois Commission in promoting these events for this year's "season of service."

We encourage everybody to volunteer at least one day during the "season of service." Help a neighbor, help in your neighborhood or dedicate some time to a community organization nearby. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

Please contact the Serve Illinois Commission at 800.592.9896 for more information about schedules and other initiatives of the Commission.

Thank you for joining with us to build stronger communities through service.

Carol L. Adams, Secretary  
Illinois Department of Human Services

## SEASON of SERVICE

Global Youth Service Day: April 25 - 27, 2008  
Visit: [www.ysa.org](http://www.ysa.org)

National Volunteer Week: April 27 - May 3, 2008  
Visit: [www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw](http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw)

Join Hands Day: May 3, 2008  
Visit: [www.joinhandsday.org](http://www.joinhandsday.org)

National AmeriCorps Week: May 11 - 18, 2008  
Visit: [www.americorpsweek.gov](http://www.americorpsweek.gov)

## From the Chair



The Serve Illinois Commission is quickly moving to a new level of leadership and involvement in the state's volunteer efforts. With the appointments and re-appointments of commissioners last Fall and a bright, energetic Commission staff on board, we are in full swing for the new year. As commissioners, we are excited and busy!

On March 18th, the Commission hosted the first Volunteer Management Network (VMN) meeting for the East Central Illinois Region in Champaign and on April 1st the first West Central Illinois Region's VMN meeting was held in Macomb. At the meeting I attended in Champaign, nearly 25 leaders from Bloomington, Champaign, Mattoon, Decatur, Springfield and surrounding communities attended to learn more and to assist the Commission in bringing more structure to the often complicated network of nonprofit and volunteerism connections existing in many communities. The response has been very positive in the Commission's attempt to bring the state's volunteer experts together and strengthen volunteerism in our state. It was exciting to see such influential figures with their own important networks in the areas of youth mentoring, education, healthcare, nonprofit capacity-building, emergency preparedness and response, etc. I also want to thank the commissioners who have helped to host these initial meetings in their respective regions. More information about the VMN and upcoming meetings is on page 5 of this newsletter.

Secondly, I want to draw your attention to the good work of our AmeriCorps "LeaderCorps" members. As you may know, LeaderCorps is comprised of at least one representative from each of the Commission's 21 AmeriCorps\*State programs. This year, the group is focusing their statewide coordination efforts around National AmeriCorps Week, May 11-18, 2008. They will be collaborating with AmeriCorps programs statewide to facilitate a food and clothing drive in the communities in which they serve. If you would like to partner with AmeriCorps in this venture, please send an email to [DHS.ServeIllinois@Illinois.gov](mailto:DHS.ServeIllinois@Illinois.gov).

As always, it is an honor to be a part of such a great network of people and organizations serving the public good. With the good partners we have in both the "traditional" volunteerism and National Service families, Illinois is poised to realize a new level of citizen involvement in the future.

All the best,

Dave Lawrence, Chair  
Serve Illinois Commission

## Oak Park Named One of the Nation's 100 Best Communities *for Young People*

Oak Park, Illinois, has been named a winner of America's Promise Alliance's 2008 "100 Best Communities for Young People" competition. The Alliance, the nation's largest alliance dedicated to children and youth, recognizes the 100 outstanding communities across America—large and small, rural and urban—that are the best places for young people to live and grow up. The competition, which was first held in 2005, had more than 300 communities in all 50 states apply for the honor this year. Oak Park is the only Illinois community chosen this year, although the 100 winning communities span 37 states.

All communities that completed entries in the 100 Best competition were required to submit detailed information to the Alliance on existing community programs and initiatives that help deliver

the Five Promises: Caring adults, safe places, healthy start, effective education and opportunities to help others, to their young people. Visit [www.americaspromise.org](http://www.americaspromise.org) for more information about the Five Promises and 100 Best competition.

The Volunteer Center which serves Oak Park brought together more than twenty community organizations that work with children and youth to put the application together. The organizations included the public schools, faith-based organizations, governments, non-profits and local businesses.

- Submitted by Abby Schmelling, Executive Director, The Volunteer Center



## Congratulations Illinois Honorees!



**Kathleen McGlynn**

of Belleville, IL, and

**Kathleen O'Dell**

of Blue Island, IL, were

recently recognized for

outstanding community

service. The Prudential Spirit

of Community Awards represent the United States' largest youth recognition program based solely on community service. The awards are presented in conjunction with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and honor young people in grades 5 through 12. For more information or to nominate a youth in your community visit [www.prudential.com/spirit](http://www.prudential.com/spirit).



*The mission of the "Serve Illinois" Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service is to improve Illinois communities by supporting and enhancing traditional volunteerism and community service and the administration of the AmeriCorps program.*

[Serve.Illinois.gov](http://Serve.Illinois.gov)

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dave Lawrence, Chair, Savoy

Howard L. Lathan, Vice Chair, Chicago

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Dan Bassill, Chicago

Julian Brown, Naperville

Jocelyn D. Cheng, Chicago

Ted Gibbs, Chicago

Walter Grady, Chicago

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Nancy Jameson, Carthage

Rosemary Keefe, Lincolnshire

Chris Koch, Springfield

Terry Mason, Chicago

Bob McCammon, Waukegan

Arlan McClain, Dixon

Sheryl McGill, Chicago

Arlene J. Mulder, Arlington Heights

Jeffrey Piper, River Forest

Kelly Reffett, LaSalle

Fred Rodriguez, Ph.D., Western Springs

Mythili Rundblad, Carbondale

Dana Starks, Chicago

Todd Stroger, Chicago

James Tyree, Chicago

Steven Wolfe, Wheaton

### COMMISSION STAFF

Scott Kimmel, Executive Director

Deborah McCarrel, AmeriCorps Program Manager

Lisa Hooker, AmeriCorps Program Officer

Ebone Lott, AmeriCorps Program Officer

Scott Niermann, Volunteer Programs Manager

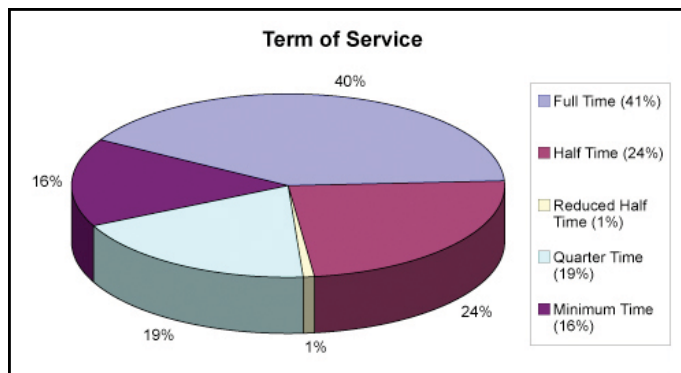
Scott McFarland, Graduate Public Service Intern



# NUMBERS you should know

## Meet Our Members

The chart and table below provide information on Illinois' AmeriCorps\*State membership for the Class of 2007-2008. The Serve Illinois Commission's 2007-2008 AmeriCorps\*State portfolio includes the 21 programs and nearing 800 total AmeriCorps members.



### Illinois AmeriCorps Class of 2007-2008 AmeriCorps Member Demographics

Category	Answer	2006-2007	2007-2008	Percent Change
<b>Gender</b>	Female	72%	75%	4.2%
	Male	28%	25%	-10.7%
<b>Age</b>	18-24	72%	70%	-2.8%
	25-50	23%	26%	13%
	51+	5%	4%	-20%
<b>Educational Level Attained</b>	High school / GED	25%	16%	-36%
	Technical, apprenticeship, associate degree, some college	50%	52%	4%
	College graduate	19%	21%	10.5%
	Some graduate school or graduate degree	6%	8%	33.3%
<b>Reason Members Joined</b>	Community service	55%	52%	-5.5%
	Explore interests	6%	20%	233.3%
	Earn money	8%	11%	37.5%
	Scholarship	24%	9%	-62.5%
	Be part of national service movement	5%	7%	40%
	Learn about other groups/ethnicities	3%	2%	-33.3%
<b>How Members Learned About AmeriCorps</b>	Through friend, relative, other AmeriCorps Member	48%	35%	-27.1%
	Internet or TV	11%	20%	81.8%
	Recruited by AmeriCorps	6%	17%	183.3%
	Print media	19%	16%	-15.8%
	School	13%	12%	-7.7%

Compiled in March 2007 and based on 792 AmeriCorps\*State Members across Illinois. These statistics are subject to continual change.

# LEADERCORPS update



LeaderCorps, in conjunction with AmeriCorps programs and others, is planning a coordinated statewide food and clothing drive during National AmeriCorps Week.

The goal of the statewide service project is to emphasize the AmeriCorps program and the benefits of having an AmeriCorps program in communities across the state.

This year's theme, "Linking Lives in the Land of Lincoln," showcases AmeriCorps programs' unity in providing services that impact not only community, but the state as well. More than 20 programs will come together during the week to implement a food and clothing drive in their region. Dollars will be raised, press releases will be sent out, and legislators and other officials will be asked to attend the event in support of service. For more information, contact Joel Newman at 888.822.2447, or the Serve Illinois Commission at 800.592.9896.

LeaderCorps is also making great strides on our alumni initiative by gathering information to put in a database.

This allows LeaderCorps to be in contact with AmeriCorps Alumni with networking

and service opportunities. To date, more than 2,000 alumni have been added to the list. If you are an AmeriCorps Alumni, or know someone who is, please contact the Serve Illinois Commission and have your name added. Benefits of signing up include the *Serve Illinois* Newsletter and opportunities to connect with others at service day events throughout the state.

LeaderCorps initiatives are making a big impact in Illinois. The future looks bright for LeaderCorps and AmeriCorps members and programs throughout the state.

- Submitted by Joel Newman, LeaderCorps President



LeaderCorps members met for a planning retreat on April 8th in Springfield and participated in Dome Day activities.

## MISSION

The mission of LeaderCorps is to connect AmeriCorps programs in Illinois through state, national and global days of service and to promote continued AmeriCorps alumni involvement.

# SENIOR CORPS

## spotlight

### *The Volunteer Center of Northwest Suburban Chicago & RSVP of Northern Cook and Northern DuPage Counties*

Local and state officials realize the need to prepare and educate residents to act when a disaster occurs. The Village of Palatine was one of the first in the nation to form a Citizen Corps Council to assist professional emergency responders by applying basic response and organizational skills during a disaster, increasing the likelihood of protecting lives. Coordinated by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), this disaster response team has accomplished the following:



- More than 175 residents have received CERT disaster training.
- More than 100 high school students have been trained in emergency preparedness, enabling the students to complete their community service requirements for graduation and providing another layer of protection to the community.
- 24 RSVP volunteers participated in emergency management training.
- RSVP volunteers taught three 20-hour CERT training classes and conducted two quarterly supplemental trainings.
- RSVP volunteers have trained 175 volunteers that will be able to assist professional emergency personnel when a disaster occurs. Several of these trained volunteers were called out to assist in response to heavy flooding in northern Illinois. One RSVP volunteer coordinated 1,500 volunteers during these floods!

These efforts are sustainable and have dramatically increased the community's ability to address local issues.

- Submitted by Mary Fitzgibbons, Director, The Volunteer Center of Northwest Suburban Chicago



## Commission Rolls Out Volunteer Management Exploratory Meetings

The Serve Illinois Commission has embarked on a strategic initiative aimed at developing a regionally-based, statewide infrastructure for volunteer managers across Illinois. The Illinois Volunteer Management Network (VMN) seeks to cultivate an extensive array of voluntary agencies and associations, small and large, across Illinois. The purpose of the network is to help address the primary concerns of hardworking volunteer managers and administrators, including recruitment and retention of volunteers, local organizational capacity-building efforts, and ongoing training and professional development opportunities for volunteer managers – in their own backyard.



A key facet of the VMN is its grassroots nature. The Commission believes a regional model – a local network of public, private and nonprofit entities in five or more regions of the state – in partnership with the Illinois Department of Human Services, will provide sustainability and a pragmatic problem-solving approach to the issues facing volunteer managers. The Serve Illinois Commission, while providing stability and an overall operating framework for the statewide network, will solicit local volunteerism leaders to help identify and address the primary needs of that region. The Commission will also use a series of regional

network meetings as a regular feedback loop to the Commission and its staff, emphasizing both national service and “traditional” volunteerism goals.

To date, three out of five regions of the state have held meetings. The VMN-Southern Region met in Mt. Vernon in late January, the East Central Region met in Champaign



*Scott Kimmel, Executive Director of the Serve Illinois Commission, answers questions about the VMN at the April 1st meeting in Macomb.*

in March and the West Central Region of the VMN convened in Macomb the first of April. Upcoming meetings include Northwest Illinois in Dixon on April 23rd and Northeast Illinois in Naperville on May 22nd. The second meeting of the Southern Region, including representatives from Southwestern Illinois/Metro-East area, will be on June 24th in Marion.

Since the goals of the Commission include making communities stronger through well-managed volunteer programs, improving the ability of community-based organizations to maximize their volunteer resources and increasing the number of individuals volunteering in their communities, we are working to enhance existing collaborations, form new ones and solidify the volunteerism infrastructure in Illinois. If you or a colleague would like to learn more about the VMN and how to become involved, contact the Serve Illinois Commission at 800.592.9896 or email [DHS.ServeIllinois@Illinois.gov](mailto:DHS.ServeIllinois@Illinois.gov).



## Making Illinois Safe

The Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) AmeriCorps Program has been improving the lives of Illinois residents and providing safer Illinois communities since its inception in 2003. Members have provided direct service to more than 170,000 Illinois residents through a variety of activities including after school programming, health education, flu vaccine clinics, violence prevention education, car seat safety checks, community cleanup, and family planning and case management. Forty-eight percent of members participating in the IPHA program have also been involved in Public Health Emergency Preparedness.



*Emergency Preparedness team from Oak Park during an emergency drill.*



*IPHA AmeriCorps member, Faith Givan of McLean County Health Department, reviews materials with another Emergency Preparedness team member during a drill.*

Each county health department in Illinois is responsible for creating emergency response plans in the event of a BioTerrorism attack, as well as for a pandemic flu outbreak. These plans include what actions each community agency (fire, police, hospitals) will take, where citizens can go for help, how vaccines, food, etc. will be dispensed, as well as how mass casualties will be dealt with.

During their term of service, IPHA AmeriCorps members take part in a variety of activities to assess, train and prepare the communities where they serve. Members act as liaison between the health department and other community organizations. AmeriCorps members meet with agencies on a routine basis to discuss each group's responsibilities and how each segment of the population will be served. As a liaison, members also work with area agencies to coordinate, implement and evaluate emergency drills in their community.

Two AmeriCorps members serving during the 2007-08 program year are working with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Response. "The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is excited to continue our collaborative efforts with the Illinois Public Health Association and the

AmeriCorps Volunteer Program. AmeriCorps volunteers have routinely demonstrated an outstanding work ethic and enthusiasm with the capability to quickly and easily integrate into all areas of the IDPH organization," says IDPH Director, Dr. Damon Arnold. "Projects produced by AmeriCorps volunteers have both an immediate positive effect on IDPH's missions and a long lasting impact on Public Health in Illinois. The future of Public Health in Illinois will be very bright indeed if AmeriCorps volunteers are typical of the young people entering our profession today."

Another way IPHA AmeriCorps members are utilized in relation to Emergency Preparedness is in the creation and coordination of county-wide Medical Reserve Corps. The Corps is a group of doctors, nurses, technicians, and mental health professionals who volunteer to help health department staff administer medication, perform triage, and provide counseling to residents in the event of an emergency. As the Corps coordinators, AmeriCorps members are responsible for recruiting and training the professional volunteers for their emergency response duties.

In addition to training professionals, the IPHA members also spend a portion of their time educating the public about the county's emergency preparedness plans. Members provide workshops to school children, civic and religious groups, and health fair attendees.

The service IPHA AmeriCorps members working in emergency preparedness provide made Illinois a leader in relation to public health emergency readiness. The plans they have created, the partnerships they have formed, and the education they have provided are a lasting testament to the importance of the Illinois Public Health AmeriCorps Program.

- Submitted by Kristen Ball, Program Director, Illinois Public Health AmeriCorps



*A Public Health Nurse provides a county resident with a vaccination during a strategic national stockpile drill in Madison County.*

# TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Local Volunteer Management Associations

**Association of Volunteer Administrators of Metropolitan Chicago (Cook County)**  
email: [anne.schuman@cje.net](mailto:anne.schuman@cje.net)

**Council for Volunteerism (Champaign County)**  
[www.uwayhelps.org/volunteer/managers](http://www.uwayhelps.org/volunteer/managers)

**DuPage Association of Volunteer Administration (DuPage County Area)**  
[www.dava-il.org](http://www.dava-il.org)

**Land of Lincoln Professional Volunteer Managers Association (Serving 15 Counties in Central Illinois)**  
[www.volunteerillinois.org](http://www.volunteerillinois.org)

**Metropolitan Volunteer Management Association (Madison, St. Clair, Monroe and Jersey Counties)**  
[www.CVDstl.org](http://www.CVDstl.org)

**Mid Central Illinois Volunteer Coordinators Association (McLean, DeWitt, and Livingston Counties)**  
email: [volunteers@mchistory.org](mailto:volunteers@mchistory.org)

**Mississippi Valley DOVIA (Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois)**  
[www.mvdovia.org](http://www.mvdovia.org)

**Network of Volunteer Administrators (NOVA) (Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford County)**  
email: [RSVP@maple-lawn.com](mailto:RSVP@maple-lawn.com)

## Volunteer Centers

**Volunteer Centers of Illinois (VCI)** is a coalition of Illinois volunteer centers that have historically been affiliated with the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network. For more information, visit [www.volunteerIL.org](http://www.volunteerIL.org).

## Volunteerism: Soaring to New Heights



### Illinois Conference on Volunteerism Administration

May 8-9, 2008  
Oak Brook Marriott Hotel  
Oak Brook, Illinois

Online Registration Available  
[www.icova.org](http://www.icova.org)

### Tutor/Mentor Leadership and Networking Conference

May 29-30, 2008

Northwestern University Law School, Chicago

Visit [www.tutormentorconference.org](http://www.tutormentorconference.org) for more information.

## SERVE ILLINOIS



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Volunteer Center directors recently hosted international trainer and consultant, Betty Stallings

# Upcoming Days of Service

April 25-27, 2008

Global Youth Service Day  
www.ysa.org

April 27 – May 3, 2008

National Volunteer Week  
www.pointsofflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw

May 3, 2008

Join Hands Day  
www.joinhandsday.org

May 11 -18, 2008

National AmeriCorps Week  
www.americorpsweek.gov



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800.592.9896 TTY 888.261.2713



*Illinois AmeriCorps Disability Outreach Project: Meeting the needs for AmeriCorps Members of all backgrounds and abilities.*

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